

APPLICATION TO SUPPRESS UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS
ELEVEN SPECIFIC NAMES OF AMPHIBIA AND REPTILIA AND TO
VALIDATE THIRTEEN NAMES WITH THEIR ORIGINAL AUTHOR
AND DATE. Z.N.(S.) 1449.

By Robert Mertens (*Natur-Museum und Forschungs-Institut Senckenberg,
Frankfurt am Main*) and Heinz Wermuth (*Zoologisches Museum, Berlin*)

The complete synonymy of the Amphibians and Reptiles of Europe has been revised by the applicants for the purposes of a new edition of the "Liste der Amphibien und Reptilien Europas". In the course of this work they discovered a small number of long-forgotten specific and subspecific names in these groups, most of which had never been used after their introduction into the literature by the original author. Following the Rules and according to the Law of Priority these names should replace other and well-known names which are in common use throughout the literature.

2. Under the provision of the Rules the following long-forgotten specific and subspecific names must be regarded as senior subjective synonyms of other well-known names:

Salamandra funebris Bory, 1828 (*Rés. Erpétol. Hist. nat. Rept.* : 236). Senior subjective synonym of the name *Pleurodeles walil* Michahelles, 1830 (*Isis* [Oken] 23 : 195, tab. 2).

Rana bosci Bory, 1828 (*Rés. Erpétol. Hist. nat. Rept.* : 266). Senior subjective synonym of the name *Rana esculenta perezii* Seoane, 1885 (*The Zoologist* (3)9 : 171, fig.). The name *perezii* is now regarded as the valid name for a subspecies of the species *Rana ridibunda* Pallas, 1771.

Anguis besserii Andrzejowski, 1832 (*Nouv. Mém. Soc. Natural. Moscou* (2)2 : 338, tab. 22, fig. 7, tab. 24). Senior subjective synonym of the name *Otophis eryx* var. *colchica* Nordmann, 1840 (*in* Demidoff, *Voy. Russ. mérid. Crim.* 3 : 341). The name *colchica* is now regarded as the name of a valid subspecies of the species *Anguis fragilis* Linnaeus, 1758.

Lacerta muralis punctato-striata Eimer, 1881 (*Arch. Naturgesch.* 47(1) : 340, tab. 13, figs. 4-5) and *Lacerta muralis punctato-fasciata* Eimer, 1881 (*ibid.* : 368, tab. 13, fig. 10). Both these names are senior subjective synonyms of the very well-known name *Lacerta muralis neapolitana* var. *fiumana* Werner, 1891 (*Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien* 41 : 753). The name *fiumana* is now regarded as the valid name of a subspecies of the species *Lacerta melisellensis* Braun, 1877. In connection with the availability of the name *fiumana* there are special problems which are discussed in the second part of this application.

Podarcis michahellesii Fitzinger, 1864 (*in* Erber, *Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien* 14 : 703). Senior subjective synonym of the name *Lacerta viridis* var. *trilineata* Bedriaga, 1886 (*Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges.* 14 : 99). The name *trilineata* is now regarded as the name for a valid species of the genus *Lacerta*.

Coluber melanepis Rafinesque, 1814 (*Précis Découv. Trav. somiol.* : 15). Senior subjective synonym of the name *Coluber viridi-flavus* var. *carbonarius* Bonaparte, 1833 (*Iconogr. Faun. ital.* 2(5) : tab.).

Coluber nigricollis Dwigubskij, 1832 (*Opyt estestv. Istorii* 3 : 26). Senior subjective synonym of the name *Coronella modesta* Martin, 1838 (*Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* 1838 : 82). The name *modesta* is now regarded as the valid name of a species of the genus *Eirenis* Jan, 1863.

Coluber quater-radiatus Gmelin, 1799 (*Der Naturforscher*, Halle 28 : 169, tab. 3, fig. 1) and *Coluber elaphis* Shaw, 1802 (*Gen. Zool.* 3 : 450). Both these names are senior subjective synonyms of the well-known name *Coluber scalaris* Schinz, 1822 (*Das Thierreich von Cuvier* 2 : 123). The name *scalaris* is now regarded as the valid name of a species of the genus *Elaphe* Fitzinger, 1833.

Coluber foetidus Gldenstedt, 1801 (*in* Georgi, *Geogr.-phys. naturh. Beschreib. russ. Reich.* 3(7) : 1884). Senior subjective synonym of the name *Pelias renardi* Christoph, 1861 (*Bull. Soc. Natural. Moscou* 34(2) : 599). The name *renardi* is now regarded as the valid name for a subspecies of the species *Vipera ursinii* (Bonaparte, 1835).

3. In the interests of stability and continuity of nomenclature in the common species and subspecies concerned it is suggested that the senior synonyms recently discovered and listed in the preceding paragraph be suppressed under the plenary powers. None of these names has been used as the name of a valid taxon for the last 50 years; *Salamandra funebris* and *Rana bosci* have even been forgotten for more than a century. None has been used or mentioned in the previous two editions of the checklist of the Amphibians and Reptiles of Europe published by Mertens & Mller (1928 ; 1940).

4. The revision of the synonymy of the European species of Amphibians and Reptiles by the applicants showed the availability of 13 names, commonly used throughout the literature as specific and subspecific names, to be defective on technical grounds. All these names were introduced as of infrasubspecific rank, i.e. under the Rules they are not available for the purposes of Zoological Nomenclature.

5. When discussing this problem it is to be emphasised that it was not the intention of the original authors of these names to create them as of infrasubspecific rank in the modern sense, as interpreted by the decisions of the XVth International Congress of Zoology, London, 1958. The names concerned did not refer to individual variants but to distinct populations isolated by geographical limits. In the state of science of that time a careful reviser of the entangled group of "Wall Lizards" was obliged first to distinguish the complex species *Lacerta muralis* into several groups, then to designate the geographical units by means of a fourth name. Today we know that the former *Lacerta muralis* is to be divided into a number of distinct species, thus easily avoiding infrasubspecific names. If we therefore try to understand the matter historically, we must conclude that these names referred exactly to categories which are now regarded as of subspecific rank.

6. Consequently later authors did use the names, each with original author and date, as names of species and subspecies, which means they nomenclatorially elevated them to names of corresponding rank. But as they were published originally as infrasubspecific names in each case the first author who elevated them to the group of specific names is to be regarded under the Code as the nomenclatorial author with his own date.

7. The names have often been used in scientific as well as in more popular publications and periodicals. It seems hardly possible in each case to find the author who first used the names as of specific/subspecific rank ; therefore there would in the future be instability of authorship and date of these names. Moreover it is to be expected that many of these authors would prove to be amateur herpetologists.

8. The names concerned, with their original authors and dates, are as follows :

Triton vulgaris subsp. *typica* forma *lantzi* Wolterstorff, 1914 (*Abh. Ber. Mus. Magdeburg* 2(4) : 375) ; [= *Triturus vulgaris lantzi*]

Rana arvalis altaica natio *issaltschikovi* Terentjev, 1927 (*Proc. 2. Congr. Zool. Anat. Histol. USSR*, 1925 : 71) ; [= *Rana arvalis issaltschikovi*]

Lacerta muralis fusca var. *erhardii* Bedriaga, 1882 (*Bull. Soc. Natural. Moscou* 56(3) : 99) ; [= *Lacerta erhardii*]

Lacerta muralis fusca var. *naxensis* Werner, 1899 (*Wiss. Mitt. Bosn. Hercegov.* 6 : 835) ; [= *Lacerta erhardii naxensis*]

Lacerta fumana lissana var. *digenea* Wettstein, 1926 (*in* Kammerer, *Artenwandel auf Ins.* : 279, tab. 4, fig. 28-29) ; [= *Lacerta melisellensis digenea*]

Lacerta muralis neapolitana var. *fumana* Werner, 1891 (*Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien* 41 : 753) ; [= *Lacerta melisellensis fumana*]

Lacerta muralis fusca var. *lissana* Werner, 1891 (*Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien* 41 : 752) ; [= *Lacerta melisellensis lissana*]

Lacerta muralis fusca var. *milensis* Bedriaga, 1882 (*Bull. Soc. Natural. Moscou* 56(3) : 98) ; [= *Lacerta milensis*]

Lacerta muralis neapolitana var. *insulanica* Bedriaga, 1882 (*Bull. Soc. Natural. Moscou* 56(3) : 101) ; [= *Lacerta muralis insulanica*]

Lacerta muralis fusca var. *maculiventris* Werner, 1891 (*Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien* 41 : 752) ; [= *Lacerta muralis maculiventris*]

Lacerta muralis coerulescens gallensis Eimer, 1881 (*Arch. Naturgesch.* 47(1) : 395) ; [= *Lacerta sicula gallensis*]

Lacerta muralis coerulescens monaconensis Eimer, 1881 (*Arch. Naturgesch.* 47(1) : 393, tab. 15, fig. 23) ; [= *Lacerta sicula monaconensis*]

Lacerta muralis neapolitana var. *pelagosae* Bedriaga, 1886 (*Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges.* 14(2) : 228) ; [= *Lacerta sicula pelagosae*]

9. In view of the facts set out above and in the interests of stability and continuity of nomenclature we ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :—

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the following specific names for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy :

(a) *funebis* Bory, 1828, as published in the binomen *Salamandra funebis* ;

(b) *bosci* Bory, 1828, as published in the binomen *Rana bosci* ;

(c) *besseri* Andrzejowski, 1832, as published in the binomen *Anguis besseri* ;

- (d) *punctato-striata* Eimer, 1881, as published in the binomen *Lacerta muralis punctato-striata* ;
 - (e) *punctato-fasciata* Eimer, 1881, as published in the binomen *Lacerta muralis punctato-fasciata* ;
 - (f) *micahellesii* Fitzinger, 1864, as published in the binomen *Podarcis micahellesii* ;
 - (g) *melanepis* Rafinesque, 1814, as published in the binomen *Coluber melanepis* ;
 - (h) *nigricollis* Dwigubskij, 1832, as published in the binomen *Coluber nigricollis* ;
 - (i) *quater-radiatus* Gmelin, 1799, as published in the binomen *Coluber quater-radiatus* ;
 - (k) *elaphis* Shaw, 1802, as published in the binomen *Coluber elaphis* ;
 - (l) *foetidus* Gldenstedt, 1801, as published in the binomen *Coluber foetidus*.
- (2) to use its plenary powers to validate the following specific names with their original authors and dates :
- (a) *lantzi* Wolterstorff, 1914, as published in the combination *Triton vulgaris* subsp. *typica* forma *lantzi* (Class Amphibia) ;
 - (b) *issaltschikovi* Terentjev, 1927, as published in the combination *Rana arvalis altaica* natio *issaltschikovi* (Class Amphibia) ;
 - (c) *erhardii* Bedriaga, 1882, as published in the combination *Lacerta muralis fusca* var. *erhardii* (Class Reptilia) ;
 - (d) *nazensis* Werner, 1889, as published in the combination *Lacerta muralis fusca* var. *nazensis* (Class Reptilia) ;
 - (e) *digenea* Wettstein, 1926, as published in the combination *Lacerta fumana lissana* var. *digenea* (Class Reptilia) ;
 - (f) *fumana* Werner, 1891, as published in the combination *Lacerta muralis neapolitana* var. *fumana* (Class Reptilia) ;
 - (g) *lissana* Werner, 1891, as published in the combination *Lacerta muralis fusca* var. *lissana* (Class Reptilia) ;
 - (h) *milensis* Bedriaga, 1882, as published in the combination *Lacerta muralis fusca* var. *milensis* (Class Reptilia) ;
 - (i) *insulanica* Bedriaga, 1882, as published in the combination *Lacerta muralis neapolitana* var. *insulanica* (Class Reptilia) ;
 - (k) *maculiventris* Werner, 1891, as published in the combination *Lacerta muralis* var. *fusca maculiventris* (Class Reptilia) ;
 - (l) *gallensis* Eimer, 1881, as published in the combination *Lacerta muralis coerulescens gallensis* (Class Reptilia) ;
 - (m) *monaconensis* Eimer, 1881, as published in the combination *Lacerta muralis coerulescens monaconensis* (Class Reptilia) ;

- (n) *pelagosae* Bedriaga, 1886, as published in the combination *Lacerta muralis neapolitana* var. *pelagosae* (Class Reptilia).
- (3) to place the eleven specific names suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology ;
- (4) to place the thirteen specific names validated under the plenary powers in (2) above on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.